

REMARKS

The Applicants thank the Examiner for the thorough examination of the application. No new matter is believed to be added to the application by this Amendment.

Entry Of Amendment

Entry of this Amendment under 37 C.F.R. §1.116 is respectfully requested because it cancels claims to thereby place the application in condition for allowance.

Status of the Claims

Upon entry of this Amendment, claims 1, 3, 6-13, and 15-18 are pending in the application. Claims 22 and 23 are canceled by this Amendment without prejudice or disclaimer of any of the subject matter contained therein.

Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) based On Lyu

Claims 22 and 23 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Lyu (U.S. Patent 6,001,539) in view of Tran (U.S. Patent 5,135,581), Carter (U.S. Patent 5,628,933) and Kaneko (U.S. Patent 6,433,842). Applicants traverse.

Claims 22 and 23 are canceled by this Amendment, thereby rendering this rejection moot. This rejection is overcome and withdrawal thereof is respectfully requested.

Conclusion

The Examiner's rejection has been overcome, obviated or rendered moot. No issues remain. It is believed that a complete reply has been made to the Office Action. The Examiner is accordingly respectfully requested to place the application in condition for allowance and to issue a Notice of Allowability.

Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Robert E. Goozner, Ph.D. (Reg. No. 42,593) at the telephone number of the undersigned below, to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

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Respectfully submitted,

NEC

By Esther Chong
Esther H. Chong
Registration No.: 40,953
BIRCH, STEWART, KOLASCH & BIRCH, LLP
8110 Gatehouse Road
Suite 100 East
P.O. Box 747
Falls Church, Virginia 22040-0747
(703) 205-8000
Attorney for Applicant